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The last two lectures deal with the growth of municipal incorporation, especially in Cambridge. We are told that the *firma burgi* did not imply the corporate liability of the borough for the annual rent due to the crown, but that the bailiffs of the town were really responsible for its payment. Though all the burgesses were liable to the king, the bailiffs were expected to make good any deficit in the revenues which they collected to satisfy the fee-farm rent; if, on the other hand, they made a profit, they spent it in a common banquet or in a drinking-bout. Professor Maitland says that the main reason for allowing the burgesses to have the town at farm was to free the borough court from the sheriff's control. This statement may be correct, but it requires explanation, for there seems to be much evidence to show that the main advantage of this privilege was to free the burgesses from the sheriff's interference in fiscal matters. Was not the burghal moot, "the one old organ of the borough," under the control of the town officers long before *firma burgi* was granted to the burgesses? But this question does not affect the author's main line of thought. With his usual skill and learning he shows how the definite idea of corporate ownership of land appears in Cambridge about the middle of the fourteenth century, when bits of waste or "common" began to be leased by the borough. "The Town that seals leases, that takes rents, is becoming a person; it is ascending from the 'lower case' and demands a capital T." In modern times the corporation becomes "both *persona ficta* and a Tory dining club."

In the appendix, which forms more than half the volume, many matters of interest relating to Cambridge are ably investigated. The book as a whole deserves high praise. By looking "beyond wall and ditch to the arable fields and the green meadows of the town," Professor Maitland has broken new ground, and has done much to advance the study of municipal history.

CHARLES GROSS.

*History of England under Henry the Fourth.* By JAMES HAMILTON WYLIE, M.A. Vol. IV., 1411-1413. (London, New York and Bombay: Longmans, Green and Co. 1898. Pp. x, 575.)

MR. WYLIE, in the preface to this his concluding volume, rather disarms criticism on those points which have met with such general disapproval in his former volumes by treating his work, notwithstanding its title, as principally intended to provide material for later historians. We can, therefore, only state our difference of opinion from his in the two points he defends, the desirability of such minute detail in a general history, and the realistic effect produced by including in his narrative a large number of strange contemporary words and expressions; and then pass on to a recognition of the various excellencies of his book. This last volume includes only about a hundred pages of text, all the remainder being given up to appendices, glossary, and index. The amount of new information is, therefore, naturally not great, but the account of the rela-

tions of England with the Hanse towns and the Teutonic Order is very interesting. Not that any conclusion to the current disputes was reached. On the contrary, the very impracticability of establishing any stable equilibrium throws much light on the rising ambitions of English traders, on the semi-independence of the English towns, and on the failing fortunes of the Hanse and the Order. When English merchants were fighting their way into all harbors in accordance with a manifest destiny to become world-traders, there was little probability that there would be a cessation of armed frays with traders of other nations who had long been used to a monopoly in these same harbors. So long as English merchant vessels had to arm and defend themselves, the merchants of English towns were not likely to pay to foreign claimants indemnity for their losses in these irregular combats, no matter how often they were so commanded by the King and Council.

In other chapters the detailed account of official events brings out clearly here, as it has in the earlier volumes, how continuous the friction with France was, how incomplete had been the suspension of the "Hundred Years' War." The campaign of Henry V., in 1415, was not a deliberate renewal of a closed-up war, but simply a repetition of recent expeditions, although, of course, more extensive, more deliberate, and more vigorous. The plans for a renewal had never been suffered to sleep by either side. We have next a discussion of the obscure estrangement between the King and the Prince of Wales during the King's last year, and of the stories of the Prince's youthful wildness. *W. Wylie* is inclined to give these stories more credit than they sometimes receive, though he rejects, of course, those of his participation in sportive highway robbery. A fuller discussion is given to the story of his committal to prison by the outraged chief-justice, and the author decides for the acceptance of it, though he acknowledges the absence of actual contemporary testimony.

A work that follows on the whole such a definite line of official history can hardly find much of a dramatic conclusion in the last days of Henry IV. Weakened and made repulsive in appearance by some strange wasting illness he gradually withdrew from his labors, fainted one day during his devotions in Westminster Abbey, and died in the adjoining "Jerusalem Chamber." The details that *Mr. Wylie* gives of the embalmment and burial of the king are interesting, but throw into relief the cyclopedic rather than historical character of the work. His last chapter, devoted to a careful summary of the personal appearance, character, and abilities of Henry, furnishes a somewhat depressing commentary on the method of writing history without any generalizations, any theories, or any outlook.

But the really serious part of this volume, as has been said, lies in the additions rather than in the narrative. The index covers the matter of all the four volumes and is of surpassing length, detail, and excellence. It covers more than two hundred pages, includes the notes as well as the text, and, in the peculiar method adopted by *Mr. Wylie* in his writing,

furnishes the key to the value of the book. An enormous amount of accurate information and reference for almost all sides of English life in the early fifteenth century is here put at the command of scholars, and one almost feels ashamed of any criticism of the manner of writing a history when he sees the wealth of matter on which it is based, and realizes what a vast amount of labor is represented by its collection. The trust which the author expresses that the work of future historians will be lightened by his labors will certainly be justified. The same remarks are in a slightly less degree applicable to the glossary of rare and obsolete words. There are besides some thirty appendices of varying interest and value.

The variety and extent of the sources from which Mr. Wylie was drawing his information has been noticeable since the publication of the first volume. The principal bibliography, however, is in the second volume, the third containing only books not already mentioned, and this last volume including the list of manuscript sources, with extracts from some of them published as an appendix. These bibliographical lists are somewhat miscellaneous. Contemporary and later works are placed in the same list, although distinguished, not always quite accurately, by a sign. Again, some of the works cited are inclusive of others in the same list. Foreign and native writers are not distinguished. These defects in what is otherwise a remarkable bibliographical list call attention to the deficiencies in bibliographies generally. Reviewers have long made the lack of an index a matter of rebuke. But the bibliography is as a general thing the most slovenly part of even an excellent book. Frequently there is no bibliographical information whatever, as in Stubbs's *Constitutional History*. An uncritical unannotated list of all the books that have been examined or quoted is often all that is given in a book that may be far above the average of scholarly work. On the other hand there are few if any easier or more effective ways in which an author can help his successors in the same field. Lists are in general entirely too long. Many books have not a thing in them which is not included in some other book. It is pure waste to leave a second student to go laboriously through the two books to find this out. Bibliographical lists are too indiscriminate. Many books which a student has felt bound to examine he has found to be worthless. He ought to say so for the benefit of others. Secondary and primary sources should never be placed in such juxtaposition as to obscure the difference of their degree of authority. A short statement of contents or character, a few words of comment or criticism, some information about editions, accessibility, or reputation, would often be as valuable and interesting to those who read the book as they would be practicable and easy to the one who wrote it. These remarks are made not because Mr. Wylie is an especially great sinner in such respects, but because in every other way the equipment of his books is so excellent, and because his bibliographical material itself is so extensive and could readily have been made so useful.

EDWARD P. CHEYNEY.